

Update on CIP and Feed the Future

The Center for International Programs (CIP) continues to be involved in helping to plan, design and implement programs that are relevant to the U.S. government's global food security initiative, [Feed the Future](#) (FTF). CIP and other National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) national program leaders are helping to develop a research program focused on improving crop productivity in Feed the Future countries. We continue to promote extension, youth development, food safety education, nutrition education and the like as important tools in promoting global food security. And, NIFA's AFRI (Agriculture and Food Research Initiative) Requests for Applications now allow grantees to engage internationally in service- to- program goals. CIP will follow any AFRI- funded activities that may be relevant to Feed the Future countries.

For more information contact [Hiram Larew](#).

Afghanistan Project Announcement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded a \$14 million grant to a University of California-Davis-led consortium of universities to assist Afghanistan in strengthening its agricultural extension system. Agriculture employs more than 80 percent of Afghanistan's labor force and generates more than 40 percent of its economic output. USDA-supported efforts in the country are intended to empower the Afghan government strengthen Afghan-led development. The grant has been awarded through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

"The Afghan people rely heavily on a sustainable and profitable agricultural industry for their livelihoods and for the stability of the country," said Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics Catherine Woteki. "Just as the Cooperative Extension System is vital to agriculture in the United States, building a strong extension system in Afghanistan will help strengthen its agriculture sector while serving the needs of the Afghan people."

UC Davis, along with Purdue University and Washington State University, will work with Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) as they attempt to deliver more effective, demand-driven extension services to producers and other rural clientele. The consortium will link MAIL with local university faculty, vocational schools, the private sector and other information providers to develop a viable and credible extension system in Afghanistan. The project will focus on professional development training for extension staff in order to increase extension's ability to meet farmers' needs and ultimately build public confidence in MAIL's capacity to provide critical services.

The project is designed to spur improvements in household food security and income generation through professional training in such areas as postharvest technology for grain and fresh market produce, conservation agriculture for wheat, peri-urban horticulture and practical management of ruminant animals and poultry.

NIFA's Center for International Programs (CIP) will collaborate with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in overseeing the implementation of this three-year project. Funding for this project originated with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which transferred funds to capitalize on the unique resources of USDA and its land-grant institution partners to strengthen Afghanistan's MAIL extension system.

For more information contact [Mike McGirr](#).

Extension Trip with Mexican Delegation: September 2011

In September CIP staffer Shree Khalid and FAS agricultural attaché Adam Branson accompanied a delegation from Mexico's Agriculture and Rural Development branch (SAGARPA) on a 5- day, multi-state trip, to provide USDA insight and support for the development of a university-based extension system in Mexico. Representatives from various SAGARPA departments toured university centers, extension sites and farms to determine the levels and types of support that extension provides to citizens. The delegations visited locations including University of the District of Columbia, the University of Maryland, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Delaware. Meetings were intended to assist the delegation with fiscal planning as well as practical implementation approaches. The delegation was shown how extension can impact life in various settings and at different levels, such as 4-H and youth education, urban gardening, commercial farming and minority community needs.

For more information contact [Shree Khalid](#).

Center for International Programs and 4-H Partnership Webinar

In October, NIFA provided a webinar on International Youth Programs. This webinar included presentations on opportunities available from the Department of State and from States' 4-H International and was co-hosted by Lisa Lauxman (Director, 4-H National Headquarters) and Hiram Larew (Director, Center for International Programs).

Special presentations were made by Craig Brown (Department of State) and Pat BoyEs (Chair, States 4-H International). Craig and Pat each provided an overview to the many opportunities their programs provide to youth interested in participating in an international exchange, and to families interested in hosting international youth.

This [webinar](#) was recorded.

Webinar

Extension Outreach in Rural Migrant Communities

November 17, 2011

Seminar Description: This recently-held seminar with Ernesto B. López, the state volunteer coordinator for 4-H Youth Development in the University of Delaware's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, presented methods of providing minority communities with extension services. Lopez discussed the varying needs of these communities that can be met by the system, and how to best tailor extension so it may serve future immigrant communities. He also discussed how international efforts in extension can enhance work with rural migrant communities.

Presenter: **Ernesto B. Lopez**

To be added to our listserv, send your submissions or ask a question, send an email to CIP@nifa.usda.gov.

[Archived webinars](#) are available online.

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